



MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 26

Safety Bulletin

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Photo of the Week

LIFTED UP TO NEW HEIGHTS

[Click to go to Safety Center Site](#)



Sometimes I marvel at the work-arounds people come up with to get their jobs done. I mean, really, you must have some kind of light flickering upstairs to come up with something like this, right?

Sure, but the problem is, people who carry out ideas like this are only running 15 watt bulbs. I submit that a person with real brains is one who can come up with an interesting plan like this, and then reject the idea because it is too dangerous.

Look, everyone knows the fastest way to the bottom of a canyon is straight down. But only an idiot would jump off the cliff just 'cause it's faster than walking down a path. Before you start any job, use [Operational Risk Management](#) to help you decide whether it is worth the risk.

Always remember ... Just because it *can* be done doesn't mean it *should* be done.

WEEKLY SAFETY FLAGALL

5-11 Jan 04

On Duty Ground: NONE

Aviation: NONE

Off Duty:

040102 (Notification received 6 Jan 04) LCPL, 2D FSSG. SNM suffered inhalation injuries, second and third degree burns while welding sheet metal at his residence in Grand Rapids, MI. SNM was home on PCS delay enroute to his new PDS when injury occurred. SNM is reported to be in critical but stable condition and his prognosis is good.

DOD MISHAP REDUCTION RESOURCES:

Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld's challenge to reduce mishaps by 50% over the next two years has triggered a huge amount of interest and discussion. The Safety Center listed the following resources as guides to achieving this goal.

- [WorkZone - Drunk Driving/Traffic Safety](#)
- [NAVSTA Rota Campaigns for Safety with Base Fair](#)
- [50% Mishap Reduction Working Group Presentation Preview](#)
- [SECNAV Safety Policy Message](#) - November 2003
- [ALNAV 057-03 -- Reducing Mishaps](#) (PDF)
- [ALNAV 057-03 -- Reducing Mishaps](#) (text)
- [Defense Safety Oversight Council \(DSOC\) Charter](#)
- [Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld's Reducing Preventable Accidents Memo](#)
- [DoD Safety Council Metrics Presentation](#)
- [Army Safety Conference, Nov 18 - 20, 2003](#)
- [Rhumb Lines Talking Points- Naval Safety 2004 - Preventing Mishaps](#)
- [DoD Ergonomics Work Group News](#) - September 2003 issue covering the 50% mishap reduction challenge.
- Mishap-Reduction Goals: [Total Operational](#), [Aviation](#), [Afloat](#), [Ashore](#), [PMV Fatalities](#), [Civilian Lost Time](#)

New Year Safety Message 2004

Every new year brings with it both opportunities and challenges. This new year we have the opportunity to change our overall safety culture in order to save lives and protect valuable resources. The challenge is to reduce mishaps by 50 percent by 2005. In order to accomplish this goal we must all continue our efforts to move beyond "business as usual" where safety is viewed primarily as a supplement to daily operational requirements. Situational awareness and operational risk management must now become mindsets and be practiced 24 hours daily, seven days a week, on and off the job, afloat and ashore. This will require a cultural shift all the way down the chain of command, from senior leadership to the deckplate Sailor and field Marine. Every Sailor and Marine must become both a safety advocate and practitioner and look out for themselves as well as each other.

To reach our goal will require outside the box thinking. The past 50 years have seen great strides in overall mishap reduction rates, but over the last decade we have seen our rates level off. This tells us that our efforts to date have been successful, but also makes it very clear that these same efforts, by themselves, will not produce the overall mishap reduction we're striving to achieve.

We're making strides in many areas, but today, as in the past, our biggest killer remains POV accidents. The challenge is for all hands to tackle this insidious taker of life and livelihood for today our Sailors and Marines are being killed or injured because they do not wear seat belts, drive under the influence of alcohol, or drive too long with minimum sleep or rest. For those who subscribe to the "it won't happen to me" philosophy, beware, because chances are, it could very well happen to you. Buckle up before you turn that ignition key, don't drink and drive, and don't attempt to drive too far without proper rest and nourishment. For shop supervisors and NCO's - talk to your Sailors and Marines. Know what they are planning for the weekend. Stress the importance of defensive driving.

While America battles terrorism throughout the world, we must not sacrifice safety during combat operations. In the words of SECNAV: "If we perform our safety roles with the same passion we dedicate to our combat missions, we will better manage risk, minimize needless injuries, and enhance our combat credibility by avoiding needless loss of manpower and equipment due to safety mishaps."

While we look out for, and educate, one another on the merits of thinking and operating safely, let us not neglect our equipment. PMS and maintaining our gear is as critical to safe operation as watching out for your shipmates. Performing required preventive and timely corrective maintenance on our operating systems is never optional. Operating at any level below 100 percent renders us less than fully mission capable and endangers us all.

Every year brings opportunities and challenges. The challenge for all Navy and Marine Corps leadership, along with all Sailors and Marines, is to change our safety culture, our safety mindset. With leadership emphasizing safety down the line, and Sailors and Marines practicing and thinking safety 24/7, the convergence will ensure our Navy and Marine Corps team will retain its readiness to answer all calls for defending our national interests. Have a prosperous new year and be safe out there!

Traffic Safety Stats

(Number of tickets issued aboard MCAS New River) for the Week of 4-11 January 2004

- Failure to Stop: 9
- Use of Radar Detector: 5
- Speeding/Excessive Speed: 5
- Failure to Wear a Seatbelt: 3
- Illegal Parking: 4

Wrong Time, Wrong Place

1990 Darwin Award Nominee

Confirmed True by Darwin

(3 February 1990, Washington) A man tried to commit a robbery in Renton, WA. This was probably his first attempt, as suggested by the fact that he had no previous record of violent crime, and by his terminally stupid choices as listed below:

1. The target was H&J Leather & Firearms, a gun shop.
 2. The shop was full of customers, in a state where a substantial portion of the adult population is licensed to carry concealed handguns in public places.
 3. To enter the shop, he had to step around a marked Police patrol car parked at the front door.
 4. An officer in uniform was standing next to the counter, having coffee before reporting to duty.
- Upon seeing the officer, the would-be robber announced a holdup and fired a few wild shots. The officer and a clerk promptly returned fire, removing him from the gene pool. Several other customers also drew their guns, but didn't fire. No one else was hurt.



MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY COURSES DRIVER IMPROVEMENT COURSE

Date: Jan 14
Place: AS-212, Room 121A
Time: 0730-1600 (first 25 Marines, so be early)

REMEDIAL DRIVER IMPROVEMENT COURSE

Date: Feb 13
Place: AS-212, Room 121A
Time: 0730-1130

Motorcycle BASIC RIDER COURSE (23 hours)

Fri 1700-2200 and 0700-1700 Sat and Sun.
Jan 16-18, 23-25, 31-02 Feb.
(Classes are held at Camp Johnson, call 938-6294 for details)

Motorcycle EXPERIENCED RIDER COURSE (11 hours)

The experienced rider must have an endorsement on his drivers license.
Fri 1700-2200 and Sat 0700-1300.
March 5-6.

No permit is required to take the course at CCCC; however, an endorsement or proof of purchase/ownership is required to receive a voucher for the MCAS Safety Office to pay for the class. The Marine must present his driver license and ID card to receive the voucher. If the Marine has a motorcycle endorsement, he will need to take the experienced rider course. The phone number at Coastal for registration is 938-6294.